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#### LITTLE JEFF EPITOMIZES ON SPANISH FLU AND DOUGHBOYS

Everybody Having It or Being Accused of It—Fellows Who Can Keep Germs Out of Their Think Tank Can Keep It Out of Their System

The following interesting letter will be published in the Florida Grower this week:

**Little Jeff on Spanish Flu**  
Dear Billy: Of course you've heard that little old song the Tommys sing, "Are we down hearted?—NO-O-O-O." They've been singin' it goin' on five years, singin' it in the mud up to their middle, with cooties paradin' up and down their backs, with bullets and baynets bustin' 'em on the bean, and rip snortin' hell breakin' all around 'em.

And our own doughboys are doin' the same thing singin' and laughin' their way through hell, goin' over the top with a grin on their map as confident as all outdoors.

Of course anyone of 'em is liable to get himself bumped off any minute, and many a guy sees his pal laid out before the battle's won, but they "carry on" and "don't" spend much time fussin' and fretin' about what's liable to happen to 'em or what the wind up will be, and if you ask 'em if they're down-hearted they'll always answer, "NO-O-O-O."

It takes that kind of stuff to win any kind of a scrap, Billy. The fellow that steps into the ring with a grin has got a darn sight better chance to win than the poor bird that goes in scared stiff and shakin' all over like an earthquake, that kind of a bird is usually licked before he starts and takes the count in the first round.

The guy that can face danger or a serious situation and keep calm and cool is sure to take a lot of tricks and I'm for him, but the guy that can stand up to them things with a grin and a song is sittin' on top of the world and you just naturally gotta take your hat off to him.

A lot of folks are alright and get along fine as long as things hum along as per usual, but when something out of the ordinary crops up that's right where you begin to get a new angle on 'em and you can tell "Who's Who" without lookin' in the book.

It comes natural to some folks to beller FIRE at the top of their pipes the minute they smell smoke and a few of 'em will yell when they just image they smell it. Them kind us-

ually yell the loudest. Then there's always another crowd to start the runnin' and the stampede is on, while the few birds in the crowd that are still in possession of their sanity can't employ it on account of bein' over run by the mob.

Right now, Billy, this country is facin' a serious situation. You guessed it, "spif". It's doggone serious, and I'm not here tryin' to make you think it ain't, but at the same time it's got to be faced and bein' down-hearted ain't gonna get us a thing. Instead of sittin' around feelin' sorry for ourselves and wonderin' if we're gonna get it, we ought to be steppin' along with a grin and takin' all the precautions we can to keep it from gettin' us.

The fellow that can keep germs out of his think-tank is pretty apt to keep 'em out of his system, and fear is the worst germ of all. If you think "Spif" and talk "Spif" dream "Spif" and dread "Spif" you'll just naturally get "Spiflicated" and then you will be out of luck, so take my advice, Billy, and don't.

On the level, the way some birds in this man's town carry on has got my goat. As soon as the dope began to appear in the papers about the epidemic some of 'em hops right up and shows a streak of yellow as wide as the Mississippi, maybe they couldn't help it. I don't know, but it didn't do them a whole lot of good or help anybody else.

Without even stoppin' to find out what it was or how it would affect 'em, they began to have it. Yes they did. Anything and everything was "Spif". If a guy had a sore toe right away he was ready to throw up both lily white hands, yell "Kame-rad," and send for the ambulance. A headache that under ordinary conditions a fellow wouldn't pay any attention to sent another guy to bed for a week, a sneeze was enough to start a young panic. I know one poor simp that went darn near nutty worryin' about himself, he saw five different doctors that I know of and every one of 'em assured him he was as healthy as they make 'em, but even at that he wouldn't dare cough and I know he'd choke to death rather than tear off one good healthy sneeze. A guy like that, Billy, ain't only harmin' himself, but he gets on the nerves of everybody that has to associate with him, and those that can't stand the gaff get to feelin' just like he does.

Some folks never hear or read about any disease but what they are certain they are victims of it, and when they know all the symptoms:

Oh, boy; its good night, nurse! You know they're the kind of birds that make the patent medicine advertisements a payin' investment and make it possible for quack doctors to buy new limousines every season. I know one guy in particular that's like that, and this here "Spif" stuff has got him plum off his nut; he got ahold of a paper the other day that had the symptoms all tabulated for him. Say, if he'd been readin' an account of the kaiser's assassination or the fall of Berlin he couldn't have been any more excited.

"Listen," he says, his breath comin' in abbreviated pants.

"It says here, headache, pains in the back, sneezing, coughing, dizziness, eyes roll, etc. etc."

"Well," I says, "What's the answer, Carter's Little Liver Pills or Dr. Putt Putt's Perfect Preparation that never disappoints?"

"Spif", he says, wild eyed with excitement, "and you know I believe I've got it, honest I feel just like it says here, I got pains in my head, and,—"

"Go on!" I cuts in, "Ivory never pained anybody, and for that matter I can pick up any of the local papers and show you a dozen ads that describe all of those symptoms and call it different names, each one advertisin' a different remedy." But you know that poor fish is so sure he's down and out that he won't be satisfied until he can find some doctor that will get tired bein' honest and tell him he's sure enough sick and then he will be.

Another fellow I know heard some one say that if you'd think enough booze the "Spif" wouldn't bother you. I ain't denyin' that statement at all, because if a bird will drink enough of that stuff nothin' will bother him, not even his conscience. But this fellow I was speakin' of fell for that booze talk and the last time I saw him he was standin' in line at a package house tryin' to get a prescription filled. I'll bet if the town should happen to go dry real sudden the poor boob would just naturally throw up the sponge and take the count.

Now, Billy, don't get me wrong. I'm not tryin' to kid you into gettin' overconfident and careless; it's too serious a matter for that. What I'm drivin' at is this, don't let panic get the better of your good judgment. If you're all o. k. say so, and don't go huntin' for trouble and over-drawin' your imagination account. Imagination is a valuable asset; we couldn't get very far in this little old world without it; but at the same time there are occasions when it's a wise plan to let it alone and this is one of them.

It's up to you and I and the rest of us to exercise all the good old commonsense we happen to be

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blessed with. Talk health, look health, live health, believe in it and to the extent of your ability pass the good word along. When you meet a fellow don't ask him how he feels, or if the "Spif" has got him yet; slap him on the back, give him a hearty handshake and say: "Hello, Bill, old Hoss, gee, you're lookin' fine." You just spread that kind of talk around and you'll do more good in a day than all the pills and powders can do in a year.

In the meantime, don't get in a crowd under a roof, if you want to cough or sneeze use your handkerchief; the sneeze won't mind and neither will the handkerchief, and "Safety First" never hurt anybody. Don't expectorate in any public place, sidewalks, busy streets, buildings, street cars or anywhere that may endanger the health of others. Lay in

all the god fresh air you can, open a window now and then, the exercise won't hurt you and the more outdoors you can coax into the house the better off you'll be. If you should happen to get the "Spif" which ain't likely if you play the game accordin' to the rules, you'll know it, and the thing to do is to go

arrives grin at him, even if it hurts and while he's feelin' your pain say, "Doc, are we down-hearted? He'll say "NO-O-O-O," and you'll be better from then on.

Yours for health,

JEFF.

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